

**William Short to Thomas Jefferson, July 14, 1808,
from the Thomas Jefferson and William Short
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

William Short to Thomas Jefferson

Philad: July 14-08

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of writing you on the 8th & on the 10th in answer to yours of the 6th. I have looked with anxiety for your second letter. It has not yet arrived, although this morning's mail must have come, it being now 3 o'clock. I have been working incessantly to arrange my affairs, & at the same time to obey your summons to Washington, if my presence should be deemed necessary. I mentioned that I should be obliged to return here & why. If not called to Washington I can be ready to sail on the 1st of August I think from hence, & not a moment you may be assured shall be lost. I write at present by anticipation, as I did on the 10th. It is merely to say that if Government does not chuse to take up a vessel so soon after the schooner to sail the 16th, that it is possible their views might be as well answered by granting a permission to Stephen Girard, a merchant of this place, to send one of his vessels to France on the condition of carrying their messenger & the person designed as secretary to the mission might be then considered by the public as one of your messengers, such as Mr. Nourse & Lewis were. My voyage might be considered as a pursuit of my plan of returning to France. This idea has ocured to me & I suggest it by anticipation, merely from having accidentally heard it mentioned that Stephen Girard had applied for permission to send one or more vessels to Europe & had been refused. He would not doubt be glad to accept on the condition mentioned, & not

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take passengers. I know not however anything of his sentiments on this subject. I wait with important anxiety to have the pleasure of hearing from you, & remain most sincerely my dear sir, your friend & servant, WShort

[P.S.] This morning's paper states that the secy. of war passed through this City. I did not see him or know of his passage.

RC (Jefferson Papers, DLC)